

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 30, 2004

The Honorable Colin Powell
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Powell:


In light of yesterday's alarming news that two security guards from Iran's UN Mission have been expelled for photographing sensitive sites in New York, I am writing to ask that you conduct a thorough review of all Iranian diplomatic operations in the United States to determine the risks they pose to American homeland security. This is the third time in the last two years that members of an Iranian Mission have been caught taking unauthorized photographs of potential terror targets. The Iranian government has been warned twice before and yet these security breeches continue to put millions of Americans at risk.

Although it is comforting to know that these guards have been expelled from the mission, your actions yesterday do little to ensure that similar security breeches will not occur in the future. In the last two years, we know that guards from Iranian Missions have photographed and filmed New York landmarks, parts of the subway system, and other transportation and city infrastructure that could be used as targets for future terrorist attacks despite repeated warnings to abstain from such activities.

Mr. Secretary, your Department of State has named Iran as a State Sponsor of Terror. There must be a complete investigation into who the Iranian government brings on its missions to the United States and there must be accountability for the actions of those allowed into this country under the auspice of diplomacy. We have warned Iran twice before and still they bring guards into our country and into New York City who pose significant danger to millions of Americans by refusing to obey the rules. Mr. Secretary, I suggest that upon review of Iran's diplomatic operations you consider limiting the number of Iranian diplomatic personnel allowed into the United States. Perhaps with fewer personnel, the Iranian government would be able to find participants who can comply with US standards of conduct.

In these times of danger, it is critical that United States government not provide a vehicle for our enemies to gather information that can be used to carry out a terrorist attack on our own soil. I urge you to provide a complete report on Iranian diplomatic operations in the next two weeks, including your plans to limit these risks in the future.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate